



## Changes in Quick-Relief Asthma Inhalers

Asthma patients using “quick relief” inhalers will have a change in their inhalers. The “quick-relief” or “rescue” inhalers have traditionally used chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to “propel” the medicine into the lungs. For environmental reasons, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned the use of the CFC-based propellant by 2009. Patients currently using CFC inhalers will need to switch to a hydrofluoroalkane-based (HFA) propellant in their quick-relief inhalers. The main medicine in the quick relief inhaler will stay the same, but the chemical used to “propel” the medicine out of the inhaler is changing.



During this transition the supply of CFC-based inhalers will decrease as the supplies of HFA-based inhalers is increased.

Patients should know that there are some differences between the two inhalers (such as taste and spray force). The sensation of the new HFA spray is less forceful than with the CFC inhaler. Asthma is a condition that requires close medical management. Talking with your doctor prior to changing to the HFA inhaler and close monitoring after is recommended.

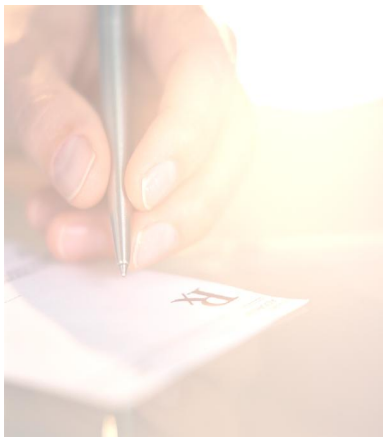
### Available HFA Inhalers

The following is a list of HFA inhalers currently available in the U.S.

- Proventil HFA (albuterol sulfate)
- Ventolin HFA (albuterol sulfate)
- ProAir HFA (albuterol sulfate)
- Xopenex (levalbuterol tartrate)

At this time both CFC and HFA inhalers are on the market, but the amount of CFC inhalers available will decrease over time.

### Prescription Drug Coverage



Patients with prescription drug coverage may see an increase in the co-pay because there is no generic version available. Patients should [contact their plan](#) to confirm the co-pay that will apply to the HFA quick-relief inhaler.

If you do not have prescription drug coverage, the cost of the HFA quick-relief inhalers may be higher than what you currently pay because there is no generic version available.

Financial assistance may be available through The Partnership for Prescription Assistance by calling 1-888-477-2669 or visiting [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org).

### Resources

For more information and links to other resources, contact the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America at 1-800-7-ASTHMA or visit [www.transitionnow.org](http://www.transitionnow.org).